Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, In the United States, one person dies by suicide every 18 minutes, and it is estimated that 4.4 million people in the United States are survivors of the suicide of a loved one; and,

Whereas, In 2000, South Dakota ranked 18th nationally for the number of suicides; and,

Whereas, Suicide was the 10th leading cause of death in South Dakota, and was the 2nd leading cause of death for 15 – 34 year olds alone during 2001; and,

Whereas, Nationally, 60 percent of people who die by suicide use a gun, and guns stored in the home are used for suicide 40 times more often than for self-protection; and,

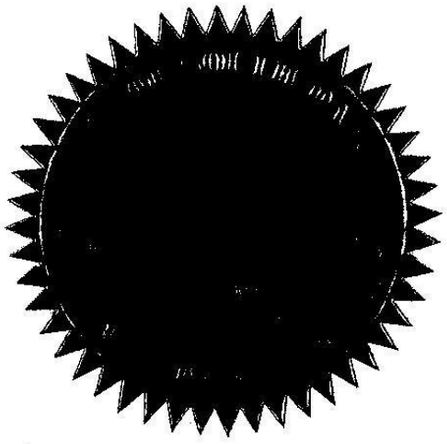
Whereas, The stigma associated with mental illness works against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at risk for suicide from seeking lifesaving help, and the stigma associated with suicide further traumatizes those people who lose a loved one to suicide; and,

Whereas, It has been acknowledged that suicide is a major health problem, and its risk can be reduced through the support of educational programs, research projects, and intervention services:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 4-10, 2003, as

SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-third Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State